

THE PIRATE, BY HAROLD ROBBINS

ANNCR: THE VOICE OF AMERICA BRINGS YOU NOW ANOTHER IN THE WEEKLY SERIES FROM THE BOOKSHELF ... A SERIES IN WHICH WE REPORT ON SOME OF THE MANY BOOKS AMERICANS ARE CURRENTLY READING. TODAY, MARK MCGUIRE'S REVIEW OF THE PIRATE, A NOVEL BY HAROLD ROBBINS, PUBLISHED BY SIMON AND SCHUSTER. HERE NOW IS BOOK EDITOR \_\_\_\_\_.

EDITOR: HAROLD ROBBINS IS ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST PROLIFIC AND POPULAR NOVELISTS. HIS BOOKS SELL MILLIONS OF COPIES. HE WRITES FICTION THAT MOST CRITICS DO NOT CONSIDER ART ABOUT TOPICAL SUBJECTS -- MIXING POLITICS, THE JET-SET WORLD, INTRIGUE AND SEX. HIS NEW BOOK, THE PIRATE, IS WRITTEN IN THE MOLD OF HIS PREVIOUS BEST-SELLERS.

THE SCENE IS THE INTERNATIONAL MONEY WORLD STRETCHING FROM GENEVA TO PARIS TO THE UNITED STATES. THE SOURCE OF THE MONEY IS ARAB OIL. ARAB CULTURE AND MIDDLE EAST POLITICS FORM THE BACKDROP FOR THIS COMPELLING STORY.

THE STORY IS ABOUT FAST-MOVING, TOUGH MEN WHOSE RELATIONSHIPS WITH WOMEN ARE AS RUTHLESS AND EXPLOITIVE AS THEY ARE WITH COMPETITORS IN THE BUSINESS WORLD. IT IS A WORLD OF SHARKS, MANEUVERING ADROITLY FOR ADVANTAGE, THEN QUICK TO KILL. COMPASSION ENTERS ALMOST AS AN AFTER-THOUGHT. BUT THE HERO'S HUMAN

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QUALITIES, BARELY VISIBLE THROUGHOUT MUCH OF THE NOVEL, DO SURFACE IN THE END.

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WOMEN ARE OBJECTS OF EXPLOITATION IN THE NOVEL. THEY SEEM TO ACT WITHOUT WILL, RESPONDING COMPULSIVELY TO THE ALLURE AND BRUTALITY OF THE VERY RICH AND THE VERY POWERFUL.

THE ACTION IS SHARP, THE TENSION IS HIGH, AND THE CHARACTERS VIVID. THE STORY IS STRONG AND WELL-DEVELOPED. ROBBINS HAS THE PROVEN ABILITY TO MAKE THE MOST UNUSUAL PEOPLE BELIEVABLE, AND THE MOST SHOCKING EVENTS CREDIBLE.

THE PIRATE IS BAYDR AL FAY -- BORN A JEW BUT REARED AS AN ARAB. NO ONE KNOWS THIS SECRET EXCEPT HIS JEWISH FATHER, BEN EZRA, AND THE ARAB PHYSICIAN WHO BROUGHT UP BAYDR AS HIS OWN SON.

BAYDR HIMSELF DOES NOT KNOW HE IS JEWISH. HIS TRUE HERITAGE ADDS IRONY TO THE STORY BECAUSE BAYDR BECOMES A SHARP INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MAN WHO HANDLES THE BILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF OIL-RICH ARABS -- AS THEIR TRUSTED CONFIDANTE, A MAKER OF MONETARY MIRACLES, AND A POWERFUL ENTREPRENEUR WHOSE RUTHLESS SKILL MULTIPLIES FORTUNES.

BUT BAYDR IS A PROFESSIONAL. HE ALSO DOES BUSINESS WITH AMERICAN JEWS. HIS DIFFICULTIES ARISE FROM HIS MONETARY ACUMEN. HE CAN'T SEE ANY PROFIT BACKING

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(CONT'D) ARAB NATIONALIST CAUSES. AND ONE TERRORIST GROUP  
SCHEMES TO GET A GRIP ON THE MONEY BAYDR CONTROLS.

BAYDR'S FIRST WIFE WAS A MOSLEM WHO BORE HIM NO SONS.  
HE REMARRIES AN AMERICAN WHO ADOPTS THE KORAN AND  
DELIVERS THE DESIRED MALE CHILDREN. BAYDR'S DAUGHTER  
BY HIS FIRST MARRIAGE HATES HER FATHER. THE ARAB  
TERRORISTS USE HER TO KIDNAP BAYDR'S AMERICAN WIFE  
AND CHILDREN. BUT BAYDR SUCCEEDS WITH ISRAELI HELP, IN  
RESCUING HIS FAMILY.

AND THE BOOK ENDS WITH A SCENE OF COMPASSION BETWEEN  
JEW AND ARAB AS BAYDR'S ARAB FATHER, DOCTOR SAMIR  
AL FAY, TENDS TO THE MORTALLY WOUNDED BEN EZRA.

THE STARK DANGER AND SENSE OF IMPENDING DISASTER  
EXPERIENCED DURING THE KIDNAP AND RESCUE OF BAYDR'S  
FAMILY LEAVES THE READER WEAK WITH ANTICIPATION AS  
HE SKIMS FORWARD IN THE BOOK. AT THE END, THE  
TENDERNESS BETWEEN HIS ARAB AND JEWISH FATHERS CONVEY  
THE HOPE THAT BAYDR, HIMSELF, HAS CHANGED AND WILL NOW  
LIVE HIS LIFE IN THE SPIRIT OF COMPASSION THAT SAVED  
HIM AND HIS FAMILY.

ANNCR: YOU HAVE BEEN LISTENING TO A REVIEW OF THE PIRATE ...  
A NOVEL BY HAROLD ROBBINS, PUBLISHED BY SIMON AND  
SCHUSTER. JOIN US AGAIN NEXT WEEK (AT THIS TIME)  
FOR ANOTHER SELECTION FROM THE BOOKSHELF. THIS  
IS \_\_\_\_\_.